

USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

DD852/LPF:wn

5750

Ser L-07

27 FEB 1968

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From: Commanding Officer, USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD852)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-09B9)

Subj: OpNav Report 5750-1; forwarding of

Ref: (a) Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 5750.12

Encl: (1) USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD852) Command History, 1 January 1967 -
31 December 1967

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted as OPNAV
Report 5750.1.

J. K. McConeghy
J. K. MCCONEGHY

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT

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COMMAND HISTORY USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD852)

1 JANUARY 1967 - 31 DECEMBER 1967

1. Chronology of Events:

1/1 to 1/3	Leave/Upkeep Pier #16 Long Beach Naval Station
1/4 to 1/5	Enroute San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, Calif.
1/5 to 1/10	Preparations for entering Dry Dock
1/10 to 3/9	In dry dock Mare Island
3/9	Shifted to pier 20 berth 1 Mare Island for continuation of regular overhaul
3/10 to 4/22	Continued overhaul
4/23	Change of Command; Commander A. M. HAZEN relieved by Commander J. K. MCCONEGHY
4/24 to 5/3	Continued overhaul
5/4 to 5/5	Underway enroute San Francisco Bay for sea trials
5/6 to 5/11	Continued overhaul
5/12 to 5/14	Underway for 3 day sea trial. Conducted emergency High-line transfer with USS PROCYON (AF62). Returned MEDEVAC to San Francisco.
5/15 to 5/20	Continued overhaul correcting discrepancies noted during sea trials.
5/20 to 5/21	Underway enroute Seal Beach, California.
5/22	Received ammo, ASROC, and torpedo's at Seal Beach.
5/25 to 5/26	Underway enroute one week of local operations off Southern California
5/26	Upkeep. Moored starboard side to USS MACKENZIE (DD836) Pier 16, Long Beach Naval Station.
5/27 to 6/2	Moored Long Beach Naval Station. Upkeep Tender Availability with USS ISLE ROYALE (AD29).
6/3 to 6/4	Moored Long Beach Naval Station
6/5 to 6/9	Underway for one week of local operations off coast of Southern California.
6/10 to 6/13	Moored Long Beach Naval Station
6/14	Nuclear Weapon Acceptance Inspection Conducted, passed satisfactorily.
6/15 to 6/21	Moored Long Beach Naval Station
6/22 to 6/23	Underway for 2 days local Ops
6/24 to 6/25	Moored Long Beach Naval Station
6/26 to 6/30	Underway for 1 week local Ops
6/30 to 7/3	Moored Buoy 16 San Diego Harbor in preparation for six (6) weeks Refresher Training.
7/3 to 7/7	Moored Buoy 16 San Diego Harbor. Various Enlisted Personnel and Officers attended schools at FLT ASW and FLT TRACEN.
7/8 to 7/9	Moored Buoy 16 San Diego Harbor
7/10	High line transfer with USS ORLECK; Returned to San Diego

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7/11 Conducted towing drill, precision anchorage; underway for night steam, San Diego Op Area.

7/12 Conducted Z-17-AA, Z-10-CM, Z-10-CC, and FTG-13-CC exercises.

7/13 Conducted Z-29-5, Z-29-G, A-2E-5 rearming exercise with USS NIAGRA FALLS, and UNREP from USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107), Night Steam.

7/14 Conducted DASH Z-21-6, and Z-2-AA exercises - returned buoy 16 San Diego Harbor.

7/15 to 7/16 Moored buoy 16 San Diego Harbor

7/17 Underway, conducted Z-3-AA, Z-2-CI, Z-10/12-CM and FTG-13-CC exercises. Night Steam conducting engineering casualty control exercises.

7/18 Conducted Z-14-CC, Damage Control and Engineering casualty control exercises before mooring Buoy 16 San Diego Harbor.

7/19 Conducted Z-28-S rearming exercise with USS NECHES (AO-47) and Z-6-AA anti craft firing exercise. Night Steamed.

7/20 Entered San Diego Harbor to exchange FTG observers. Conducted Z-6-AA and Z-28-S rearming exercise with USS NECHES, night steamed with engineering casualty control exercises.

7/21 Conducted FTG-15-C, man overboard and Z-5-CI exercises. Moored Pier 1 Berth 1 Port Side USS BOLES (DD755) San Diego.

7/22 Various personnel attended 4 hour shore bombardment briefing at Naval Amphibious Base.

7/23 Moored San Diego Naval Base.

7/24 Underway; conducted Z-20-S hold exercise moored buoy 16 San Diego Harbor.

7/25 Underway; conducted running practice mine field and towing exercise with USS ORLECK (DD886). Also conducted Z-6-AA exercise. Returned buoy 16.

7/26 Underway; conducted ECCM exercise and refueling exercise USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107). Also conducted Z-42-G and Z-44-G firing exercises at San Clemente Island. Night Steamed.

7/27 Conducted ECCE (Engineer Casualty Control Exercises) and practice battle problem. Moored Buoy 16.

7/28 Conducted Z-6-AA and FTG-15-CC exercises. Moored buoy 16.

7/29 to 7/30 Moored buoy 16.

7/31 Underway; conducted damage control, Z-44-G, and Z-46-G exercises off San Clemente Island. Night Steamed.

8/1 At 0538 a man was reported overboard. Rescued without difficulty. Identified as (b) (6). Conducted man overboard drills then moored buoy 16 San Diego, California.

8/2 Underway, transited practice mine field, conducted Z-10-CM ECM, Z-9-AA, Z-2-CI, and FTG-13-CC exercises. Also conducted DASH Ops and night steamed.

8/3 Conducted Z-23-G, UNREPED from USS NECHES (AO-47) and Moored buoy 16 San Diego Harbor.

8/4 Underway, conducted Z-9-AA and man overboard exercises. Moored buoy 16 San Diego Harbor.

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8/5 to 8/6 Moored Buoy 16 San Diego Harbor
8/7 Underway for one week of ASW exercises. Conducted ASW exercises with USS BUGARA (SS331). Night Steamed.
8/8 Continued ASW exercises with USS BUGARA, flew DASH in two attacks, night steamed.
8/9 Continued ASW exercises with dual ship attacks assisted by the USS HIGBEE and the USS ORLECK. Night Steamed.
8/10 Continued dual ship ASW exercises. Moored Buoy 16 San Diego.
8/11 Underway, last day of refresher training. Completed final battle problem satisfactorily and proceeded to Long Beach Naval Station.
8/12 to 8/15 Moored Long Beach Naval Station. Conducted normal daily routine.
8/16 Received Administration and Pre-Deployment inspection. Passed satisfactorily.
8/17 Moored Long Beach Naval Station.
8/18 Underway to load ammunition at Seal Beach. At completion returned to Long Beach Naval Base.
8/19 to 8/20 Moored Long Beach Naval Station.
8/21 Underway for one week local ops. Conducted Z-17-AA, Z-40-G, and W-2-U ASW exercises with the USS SPINAX (SS489). Night Steam.
8/22 Conducted Z-24-G, Z-30-G, and engineering casualty control exercises. Night Steamed in condition III watches as Navy boats conducted PT Boat attacks NCAR San Clemente Island.
8/23 Conducted ASW exercises with USS SPINAX made exercise attacks with ASROC, DASH, and MK 44 Torpedos'. Night steamed.
8/24 Conducted sonar self noise level test, ECM, Z-40-G, Z-42-G, Z-23-G, and Z-10-AA firing exercises.
8/25 Conducted FTG-13-CC tactical maneuvering and AAW exercises. Moored Long Beach Naval Station.
8/26 to 9/7 Moored Long Beach Naval Station - Upkeep
9/8 to 9/15 Underwent one week of tender availability with USS FRONTIER.
9/16 to 9/18 Upkeep, moored Long Beach Naval Station. Completed preparations for 6 month deployment to WESTPAC.
9/19 Underway for extended deployment with USS ORLECK to San Diego Op Area for Z-6-AA Anti-Aircraft firing exercise. Rendezvoused with USS HAMNER (DD718), USS WILTSIE (DD716) and USS BUCK (DD761) and proceeded to Hawaii.
9/20 USS KING (DLG-10)(CTU 15.8.8) joined formation and became the guide. Conducted Z-13-CC maneuvering exercise.
9/21 Proceeding to Hawaii, conducted Z-10-12*CM and Z-13-CC exercises. Innoculated crew for Yellow fever.
9/22 Proceeding to Hawaii as before. Conducted DASH exercises.
9/23 Proceeding to Hawaii. Went to General Quarters and conducted Z-13-CC, Damage control and small arms familiarization exercises.
9/24 Underway as before, proceeding to Hawaii. Transferred Chaplain (b) (6) via Holy high line to USS KING. Received Chaplain (b) (6) via Holy high line from USS ORLECK.
9/25 Conducted Z-10-AA exercise. Moored starboard side to USS ORLECK at Pearl Harbor Naval Base. Various Officers and Enlisted Personnel attended briefings concerning deployment to WESTPAC.

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9/26 to 9/28 Underway from Pearl Harbor enroute to Guam with the USS BUCK, USS WILTSIE, USS KING, and the USS ORLECK.

9/29 Underway as before with CTU 15.8.8 conducted DASH exercises. The DASH Drone flipped over as it left the deck and fell off the fantail. No one was injured as the blades shattered. The drone was not recovered.

9/30 Continued enroute to Guam.

10/1 Crossed international date line enroute to Guam.

10/7 Conducted ASW exercises with the USS ORLECK and the USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN 640). Moored to fuel pier at Guam.

10/8 Underway, enroute to Subic Bay, Philippines with the USS ORLECK.

10/9 to 10/11 Underway as before with the USS ORLECK enroute to Subic Bay.

10/12 to 10/22 Moored starboard side to the USS FORT MARIEN at Riveria Point Subic Bay. Commenced preparations for a tender availability period with the USS KLONDIKE (AR-22).

10/23 Underway from Subic Bay with the USS OBANNON and USS CONSTELLATION enroute Yankee Station.

10/25 Arrived Yankee Station, Gulf of Tonkin. Commenced plane guard activities. UNREPED from USS HASSAYIMPA (AO145).

10/26 Continued plane guard/Yankee Station. UNREPED from USS MESSIPILLION (AO-105).

10/27 Continued plane guard/Yankee Station. UNREPED from USS GRAFFIUS (AF29) and USS POLLUX (AKS-4).

10/28 Continued plane guard/Yankee Station.

10/29 ISE (Independent Ship Exercises) remained in visual sight of USS CONSTELLATION.

10/30 Conducted ASW operations with the USS WILKE (DD723) and the USS SABALO (SS302).

10/31 Continued ASW Operations and proceeded to rendezvous with the USS CONSTELLATION.

11/1 Plane Guard for USS CONSTELLATION on Yankee Station. UNREPED from USS MESSIPILLION (AO-105).

11/2 to 11/3 Continued plane guard for USS CONSTELLATION on Yankee Station.

11/4 Continued plane guard for USS CONSTELLATION on Yankee Station. UNREPED from USS HASSAYIMPA (AO-145).

11/5 Typhoon evasion in company with USS CONSTELLATION. Proceeded south to Latitude 14° N. from Yankee Station.

11/6 Arrived Yankee Station. Continued Plane guard duties.

11/7 Detached from plane guarding for USS CONSTELLATION and commenced plane guard duties with USS INTREPID (CVS-11).

11/8 Plane Guard for USS INTREPID on Yankee Station. UNREPED from USS BELLATRIX (AF-62).

11/9 ISE within visual sight of USS INTREPID. UNREPED from USS MATANEE (AO-58).

11/10 Plane Guard for USS INTREPID on Yankee Station. UNREPED from USS BELLATRIX (AF-62).

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11/11 Plane Guard for USS INTREPID on Yankee Station. Received DESDIV SEVENTY-TWO via high line from USS ROBISON (DDG-12).

11/12 to 11/14 Plane Guard for USS INTREPID. UNREPED from USS CHIPOLA (AO63).

11/15 Plane Guard for USS INTREPID on Yankee Station. UNREPED from USS MANATEE (AO-58).

11/16 Plane Guard for USS INTREPID on Yankee Station. UNREPED from USS GRAFFIUS (AF-29).

11/17 Plane guard for USS INTREPID. Transferred DESDIV SEVENTY-TWO to USS ROBISON (DDG-12).

11/18 Plane guard for USS INTREPID. UNREPED from USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145).

11/19 Conducted ISE (Independant ships exercises). Conducted Holy Helo #1 line to receive Chaplain from INTREPID.

11/20 Conducted ISE and DASH operations on Yankee Station.

11/21 Plane Guard for USS INTREPID. UNREPED from USS CHEMUNG (AO-30).

11/22 to 11/23 Departed USS INTREPID and Yankee Station area for Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) Survey of the Parcel Islands. UNREPED from USS PONCHATOLA (AO-147).

11/24 Conducted ELINT survey of Parcell Islands. Received no ELINT Data.

11/25 Joined up with USS INTREPID and USS DEHAVEN enroute to Subic Bay R.P. 1800 commenced search for man overboard from the USS INTREPID for approximately 12 hours with no results.

11/26 Enroute to Subic Bay, R. P.

11/27 Moored, Riveria Point, Subic Bay, Philippines.

11/28 Underway - conducted Naval Gunfire Support exercises at TOBONES NGFS area R.P. Rendezvoused with USS ORLECK and proceeded to Hong Kong.

11/29 to 11/30 Enroute Hong Kong.

12/1 to 12/9 Underway enroute Sasebo, Japan.

12/10 Moored Indian Basin, starboard side to the USS PERKINS (DD877) Sasebo Naval Base. Commenced 12 day upkeep period with USS AJAX (AR-6). Tender service was outstanding.

12/22 Underway enroute to South Vietnam for NGFS.

12/24 Made a four hour stop in Kauhsiung, Formosa for refueling.

12/25 Enroute South Vietnam for NGFS.

12/26 Arrive South Vietnam. Rendezvoused with USS LOFBURG (DD759) at RSSZ (Rung Sat Special Zone) for transfer of materials. Became part of GTU 70.8.9 Fired a night "H and I" Mission in III Corps zone.

12/27 NGFS in III Corps area. Fired 135 rounds 5" 38 cal. into Viet Cong Bunker Area, resulting in 3 killed in action.

12/28 NGFS, conducted H and I mission in III Corps Area.

12/29 Continued NGFS. UNREPED from USS MT KATAMI (AF-17).

12/30 Continued NGFS III Corps Area. Fired 200 rounds 5" 38 cal. H.C. in VC Bunker Area. No damage assessment due to heavy foliage.

12/31 Continued NGFS III Corps Area. Conducted H. & I Until 2300.

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2. Operations and Activities.

a. TEXT. USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD852) was named in honor of a Private First Class of the United States Marine Corps who gallantly gave his life in action on the island of Guam during World War II, and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery. Built by the Bethlehem Steel Company at Quincy, Massachusetts, her keel was laid 6 August 1945 and she was launched on 15 December 1946. She was commissioned at Boston Naval Shipyard on 28 June 1946.

Since January 10, 1967 the USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD852) was in San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California undergoing a regular overhaul. The purpose of this overhaul was to update and overhaul all equipment and weapons systems on board. The ship entered dry dock at Mare Island Naval Shipyard on 20 January 1967 for continuation of regular overhaul. Things accomplished during this docking were an entire blasting and recoating of the ship's bottom, boot topping, rudders and struts, shafting, and spotting and sweeping of the ship's four (4) feedwater and four (4) freshwater tanks. The two screws were also replaced by bronze screws 12 feet in diameter with a pitch of 12' 9.964". The ship left dry dock on 9 March 1967 to pier 20 berth one Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Routine work of the overhaul continued as the ship was moored at pier 20, berth 1.

On 23 April 1967 the USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD852) underwent a change of command. Commander A. M. HAZEN was relieved by Commander J. K. MCCONEGHY who graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1948. Commander MCCONEGHY reported to the MASON from duty as Executive Officer of the USS ESTES (AGC12). Distinguished persons present were Captain H. L. KUBEL, Commander Destroyer Squadron THREE, and Commander F. C. SEARL, Commanding Officer of USS HIGBEE (DD806).

On 4 May 1967 the USS LEONARD F. MASON made a Bay Run to check out the Engineering plant, gunmounts, and director, and also to run the Degaussing Range. On 5 May 1967 the ship returned to Mare Island for the final two weeks of the overhaul. The 12th of May 1967 MASON got underway for sea trials.

After three days of sea trials MASON returned to Mare Island for its last week of the overhaul correcting discrepancies that were noted during the sea trials. On 20 May the ship proceeded to Seal Beach, California to receive 5" 38 Cal. ammunition, ASROC and MK 44 Torpedos.

The ship got underway for 1 week of local operations, consisting mainly of drills and numerous exercises to prepare a crew with 109 new personnel on board for sea duty.

On 14 June MASON passed its NWAI (Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection). This inspection consisted of four hours of closely observed handling of ASROC plus the necessary and correct paper work involved.

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The ship moored to Buoy 16 in San Diego Harbor on 1 July 1967, in preparation for six weeks of Refresher Training. This six weeks consisted of numerous exercises and drills designated to familiarize and prepare the ship for its forthcoming deployment to the SEVENTH Fleet in September. Below is a partial list and the number of exercises conducted during refresher training.¹

<u>EXERCISE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>EXERCISE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
A-28-S	2	Z-20-S	1
FTG-13-CG	4	Z-21-G	2
Z-2-AA	1	Z-23-G	4
Z-2-CI	1	Z-29-G	2
Z-3-AA	1	Z-29-S	2
Z-5-CI	1	Z-30-6	2
Z-6-AA	2	Z-40-6	2
Z-9-AA	2	Z-42-G	2
Z-10-CG	1	Z-44-6	2
Z-10-CM	3	Z-46-G	2
Z-12-CM	1	W-2-U	2
Z-17-AA	3		

¹Refer to FXP 3(b) Ships Exercise (U), Department of the Navy, Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel. Also numerous Damage Control, and Engineering Casualty control, man overboard, underway replenishments, and ASW exercises were conducted.

During the period prior to deployment MASON conducted two separate weeks of local operations consisting of many exercises conducted during refresher training. A seven day tender availability period was conducted in Long Beach with the USS FRONTIER (AD-25) from 8 to 15 September.

On 19 September MASON departed CONUS for a 6 month deployment to the Western Pacific. MASON traveled in formation with the USS ORLECK DD886), USS WILTSIE (DD716), USS BUCK (DD761), USS HAMNER (DD718), and the USS KING (DLG 10). SOPA and OTC was COMDESRON THREE embarked in USS KING. On 25 September the ships arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On the morning of 28 th the ships left for Guam. The USS HAMNER departed Pearl Harbor for Yokosuka.

On 7 October the formation arrived in Guam. The ORLECK and MASON departed the formation for ASW exercises with the USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN 640). After one day of ASW exercises the ships refueled in Guam and departed for Subic Bay, P.I. on 8 October. MASON was OTC and SOPA enroute to Subic Bay.

The ships arrived in Subic Bay on 12 October 1967. MASON commenced a 10 day tender availability period with USS KLONDIKE (AR-22). During this time the ship conducted the necessary upkeep and preservation maintainence that was needed. On 23 October MASON got underway from Subic Bay for an extended period at Yankee Station. MASON and the USS O'BANNON (DD450) traveled in formation with the USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64). The ships arrived on Yankee Station on 25 October at which time the CONSTELLATION launched a strike against North Vietnam. MASON continued plane guard duties with the CONSTELLATION until 30 October 1967.

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On 30 October MASON proceeded south of Yankee station approximately 200 miles to rendezvous with the USS WALKE (DD723) and the USS SABALO (SS302) for ASW exercises. ASW exercises were continued until 31 October at which time MASON proceeded to rendezvous with the CONSTELLATION. Plane guard duties were conducted with CONSTELLATION until 7 November at which time the MASON commenced plane guard activities with the USS INTREPID (CVS-11). MASON remained with the INTREPID until 23 November.

On 11 November MASON conducted a high line transfer with the USS ROBISON (DDG12) to receive on board COMDESDIV SEVENTY-TWO. The DESDIV SEVENTY-TWO Staff commanded by Captain FINNERAN was on board the MASON to assume the duties of ALFA SERRIA for approximately one week. ALFA SERRIA was the call sign of the ship in the Tonkin Gulf which is responsible for plotting the position of all surface contacts. All U.S. Navy ships reported in every hour to A. S. using the COUPLE CODE. All contacts that are not navy ships and in international waters are plotted as to the identity of these contacts. This serves many purposes, the main two being the immediate warning of any surface threats, and an accurate record of all transports and freighters proceeding to or coming from North Vietnam. On 17 November COMDESDIV SEVENTY-TWO and his staff departed the ship by high line to the USS ROBISON(DDG12). At this point USS ROBISON received the ALFA SERRIA responsibilities of plotting the positions of all known surface contacts in international waters within 200 miles of point ZZ.

On 23 November MASON proceeded to make an ELINT Survey of the Parcel Islands.

The ship arrived in the vicinity of Woods Island at approximately 1000. As the ship proceeded to circle the island no closer than 6000 yards it received a flashing light message from the Island stating "Leave our territorial waters immediately". The MASON received the same flashing light message at 1100 while still proceeding around the island. The MASON's reply to both messages was the same: "We are a U.S. Ship in international waters". At 1115 the ship proceeded to Lincoln Island. After circling Lincoln Island without incident, and gathering no ELINT data, the ship proceeded to join the USS INTREPID and the USS DEHAVEN for transit of the Silver Skate exercise area enroute to Subic Bay, R. P.

INCIDENT ON 25 NOVEMBER

The MASON joined up with the USS INTREPID and USS DEHAVEN. The ships proceeded to Subic Bay in a 3C2 ASW Screen formation with the INTREPID. The INTREPID lost a man overboard at approximately 1830. The MASON and the DEHAVEN searched throughout the night with the assistance of Helos from INTREPID, without success.

On 26 November the ships proceeded to Subic Bay upon completion of the search for the man overboard early in the morning. At approximately 1800 USS POMFRET (SS391) made a simulated attack by penetrating the screen and getting within 1000 yards of INTREPID, as part of the Silver Skate Exercise. MASON's sonar was in passive at the time, but immediately went active to pick up the submarine. After about 2 hours of exercises and continuous contact with the sub, MASON proceeded to join the USS INTREPID enroute to Subic Bay.

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On 26 November the MASON arrived in Subic Bay early Monday morning and remained until 28 November. On the morning of 28 November the MASON proceeded to Tabones Naval Shore Bombardment exercise area to conduct various shore bombardment exercises. For approximately one hour in the afternoon MASON conducted a Z-10-AA Anti-Aircraft firing exercise. At approximately 1600 MASON rendezvoused with the USS ORLECK and proceeded to Hong Kong, arriving on the morning of 2 December 1967. After five days of "R & R" MASON departed Hong Kong enroute Sasebo, Japan for a 12 day upkeep period, while the ORLECK proceeded to NGFS off South Vietnam.

On 10 December MASON moored in Sasebo, Japan and spent a 12 day upkeep period alongside the USS AJAX (AR-6). Tender service was outstanding.

From 22 to 26 December the ship was enroute to South Vietnam to join CT 70.8.9 for NGFS. The MASON made a four hour stop in Kaohsiung, Taiwan for fuel. On 26 December the MASON arrived in the III Corps Area. The ship fired 40 rounds of H & I (Harrassment and Interdiction) in the III Corps area, during the night.

On 27 December MASON fired 135 rounds high capacity 5" 38 cal. into Viet Cong bunker area, in the Mekong Delta region (zone III) damaging or destroying 6 bunkers and damaging four other structures. 95% of the HC rounds fired landed in target areas resulting in three Viet Cong KIA (Killed in Action).

On 28 December MASON fired 48 rounds H & I in the III Corps area. MASON UNREPED from the USS MT KATMAI (AE-17) to receive ammunition and powder.

On 29 December no missions were conducted.

On 30 December MASON fired approximately 200 rounds of 5" 38 cal. HC and AAC in the Viet Cong bunker area, approximately 2000 yards square. The spotter commented on MASON's good coverage of all targets.

MASON again conducted H & I from 2100 to 2300 in the III Corps area, on 31 December.

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DTG: 271028H DEC 67

From: ABBREVIATE 26 "C"
To: STUD POKER

UNCLAS

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, THREE BUNKERS DESTROYED, ONE HOUSE DAMAGED, ONE SAMPAN DAMAGED THREE VIET CONG KILLED IN ACTION 95 PER CENT OF THE ROUNDS LANDED IN THE TARGET AREA, EXCELLENT COVERAGE.

BT...

DTG: 2816Z DEC 67

From: ABBREVIATE 26 "C"
To: STUD POKER

UNCLAS

DAMAGE ASSESMENT: FOUR SAMPANS DAMAGED, ONE BRIDGE DESTROYED, VERY GOOD COVERAGE OF TARGET AREA.

BT...

DTG: 301028H DEC 67

From: ABBREVIATE 26 "C"
To: STUD POKER

UNCLAS

NEGATIVE DAMAGE ASSESMENT DUE TO HEAVY FOLLAGE. EXCELLANT COVERAGE OF TARGET AREA.

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DTG: 070751Z OCT 67

From: USS FRANKLIN
To: USS LEONARD F. MASON

UNCLAS E F T O

THANK YOU FOR THE OUTSTANDING PRO AND ANTI-SUBMARINE OPERATIONS TODAY. YOU PROVIDED THE BEST TRAINING IN TORPEDO SHOOTING AND EVASION FRANKLIN HAS EVER RECEIVED. THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOU GREATLY APPRECIATED BY ALL. IT IS HOPED THAT SIMILAR OPERATIONS CAN BE ARRANGED FOR EACH OF OUR REFTRA PERIODS.

BT.....

DTG: 170612Z NOV 67

From: COMDESDIV 72
To: USS LEONARD F. MASON

UNCLAS

FLAGSHIP SUPPORT 12-17 NOV.
YOUR PERFORMANCE AS COMDESDIV 72/CTG 77.9 FLAGSHIP ON YANKEE STATION MET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF THE 7TH FLT. PROFESSIONAL IN EVERY RESPECT AND HIGHLY AGGRESSIVE, MASON CIC, BRIDGE AND COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL ARE DUE SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND EXCEPTIONALLY FINE SPIRIT. IT HAS BEEN MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO HAVE SERVED IN MASON DURING THIS PERIOD AND I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT MEETING. BEST OF LUCK.
CAPT FINNERAN

BT.....

DTG: 261346Z NOV 67

From: CTG SEVEN ZERO PT FOUR
To: RUMFCR/LEONARD F. MASON

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EXERCISE SILVERSKATE 67(U)
1. YOUR HEADS UP REACTION TONIGHT IN ATTACKING POMFRET CONSIDERED OUTSTANDING.
REAR ADMIRAL SHUPPER SENDS.
GP-4

BT.....

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DTG: 170825Z JAN 68

From: CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE
To: USS LEONARD F. MASON

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1. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF LEONARD F. MASON ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR COMPLETE AND EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY AS MEMBERS OF THE NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT UNIT DURING THE PERIOD 26 DEC 67 TO 15 JAN 68. MASON'S COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE, INITIATIVE, AND "CAN DO" SPIRIT WAS APPRECIATED AND CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SUCCESSES ENJOYED BY THOSE GROUND FORCES SUPPORTED BY HER 5"/38 GUNS.

2. THIS RECENT TOUR SAW MASON FIRE MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY ROUNDS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HER TWO TWIN MOUNTS WERE ALSO CREDITED WITH THREE ENEMY KIA, DESTROYING TWO SAMPANS, TWO MILITARY STRUCTURES, AND ONE BRIDGE IN ADDITION TO DAMAGING EIGHT OTHER SAMPANS AND TWO STRUCTURES.

3. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RETURN TO THE GUNLINE AND EXTEND A SINCERE WELL DONE TO ALL HANDS.

CAPT DALE V. SCHERMERHORN, USN
GP-4

BT...

Enclosure (1)
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter received from COMNAVBASE, Subic Bay, Philippines To Commanding Officer,
USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD852):

9 November 1967

Dear Captain Mc Coneghy,

The response from the ships of our great Navy to my request for help with Boys' Town has been truly heart warming. Please assure the members of your crew that their generous contribution will be put to good use. Specifically, it will contribute to the provision of fresh, pure running water to the cabins. To us this is an accepted thing, but to the lads we're trying to help, it will be wonderful. They are learning what cleanliness is all about, how to use a toothbrush, etc.

When LEONARD F. MASON returns to Subic Bay it would be a pleasure to have some of your fine crew out to Boys' Town so they can see where their money went. I believe they will find it a very worthwhile cause.

On behalf of the boys involved, the members of the Olongapo Civic Action Group, and those of us stationed here at Subic, please extend thanks to all who contributed.

Most sincerely,

/s/ F. B. GILKESON
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Enclosure (1)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO:
DD852/FAS:gn
5750
Ser:

From: Commanding Officer, USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09B9)

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1; forwarding of

Ref: (a) Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 5750.12

Encl: (1) USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852) Command History, 1 January 1966 -
31 December 1966

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted as OPNAV
Report 5750.1.


A. M. HAZEN

Copy to:
CINCPAC FLT

Commander Task Group 70.8 Message 170748Z 18 MARCH 1966

Commander Task Force 130 Message 170727Z 17 MARCH 1966

See 6F.

Photographs

³ See 6C

USS CANBERRA (CAG-2) Message 300206Z 1 MAY 1966

USS WINSTON Message 242247Z 24 APRIL 1966

⁴ See 6C

II CORPS NGLO Message 270300Z 27 MAY 1966

Enclosure (1)

COMMAND HISTORY USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852)

1 JANUARY 1966 - 31 DECEMBER 1966

1. Chronology of Events:

- 1/1 Moored port side to USS MACKENZIE (DD 836) at pier #6, U. S. Naval Station, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 1/4 Underway to Yokosuka explosive anchorage-on loaded ammo to allowance-underway commencing Sea Trials and refresher training in Sagami Wan.
- 1/5 Returned to Yokosuka.
- 1/10 Underway for Da-Nang Republic of Vietnam-Conducted gunnery drills enroute.
- 1/15 At anchor Da-Nang Harbor-Commenced Naval gunfire support missions.
- 1/17 Unrepd from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE1) fuel and ammunition.
- 1/26 Unrepd ammunition from USS PARICUTIN (AE-18).
- 1/28 Fired NGFS.
- 1/29 Fired NGFS.
- 1/30 Fired NGFS-Investigated small fishing craft.
- 1/31 Fired NGFS-Unrepd fuel from USS ASHTABULA (AO-51)
- 2/1 Unrepd ammunition from USS FIREDRAKE (AE-14) and fuel from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1).
- 2/2 Fired NGFS.
- 2/3 Fired NGFS-Unrepd ammunition from USS FIREDRAKE (AE-14).
- 2/4 Fired NGFS.
- 2/6 Fired NGFS-Unrepd fuel from USS CALIENTE (AO 53).
- 2/9 Fired NGFS.
- 2/10 Fired NGFS-Vertrepd from USS MARS (AFS 1).
- 2/11 Fired NGFS-Investigated small fishing boat in restricted waters.
- 2/12 Fired NGFS-Unrepd ammunition from USS PARICUTIN (AE-18) and fuel from USS GUADALUPE (AO-32).
- 2/13 Fired NGFS.
- 2/14 Fired NGFS.
- 2/15 Fired NGFS.
- 2/16 Fired NGFS-Unrepd ammunition from USS HALEAKALA (AE-25).
- 2/17 Unrepd food from USS ZELIMA (AF-49).
- 2/18 Unrepd fuel from USS GUADALUPE (AO-32)-Fired NGFS.
- 2/21 Unrepd fuel from USS KENNEBEC (AO-36)-Fired NGFS.
- 2/24 Fired NGFS-Unrepd fuel from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1).
- 2/25 Fired NGFS.
- 2/26 Fired NGFS-Unrepd fuel and ammunition from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1).
- 2/27 Fired NGFS.
- 2/28 Fired NGFS.
- 3/1 Vertrepd from USS MARS (AFS-1) and unrepd fuel from USS CHIPOLA (AO-63)-Fired NGFS.
- 3/3 Fired NGFS-Unrepd ammo from USS HALEAKALA (AE-25).
- 3/4 Unrepd fuel from USS CHIPOLA (AO-63)-Relieved on NGFS station-enroute for Yokosuka, Japan
- 3/9 Arrived homeport Yokosuka, Japan.

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3/14 Departed Yokosuka for Gemini 8 recovery mission
 3/17 1223 Gemini 8 capsule in the water-MASON proceeding to recovery,
 at 32 KTS-Astronauts Armstrong and Scott and Capsule received aboard
 171524L position Lat 26°-22'N Long. 135°-56'E.
 3/18 Arrived Naha, Okinawa-astronauts departed ship-capsule offloaded
 3/20 Arrived Homeport Yokosuka, Japan.
 3/27 Underway for ASW exercises in Sagami Wan.
 3/30 Arrived Yokosuka, Japan.
 4/15 Underway for Hong Kong B.C.C.
 4/19 Arrived Hong Kong B.C.C.-Assumed station ship duties.
 4/20 Governor Evans of the State of Washington visited the ship.
 5/9 Relieved of station ship duties-departed Hong Kong for NGFS mission
 off the Republic of Vietnam.
 5/11 Unreped from USS MARS (AFS-1).
 5/13- Unreped fuel from USS KAWISHIWI (AO-146).
 5/14 Fired NGFS.
 5/15 Provided 1,000 gallons of fresh water to the Republic of Vietnam
 (ISSL-229).
 5/16 Fired NGFS.
 5/17 Fired NGFS-Received aboard one wounded Vietnamese soldier from a
 patrol craft and transferred him to Qui Nhon-Unreped fuel from USS CANBERRA
 (CAG-2).
 5/18 Fired NGFS-Unreped fuel from USS KAWISHIWI (AO-146).
 5/19 Unreped ammo from USS MAZAMA (AE-9) and food from USS BELLATRIX
 (AF-62).
 5/20 Fired NGFS.
 5/21 Fired NGFS.
 5/22 Unreped fuel from USS CACAPON (AO-52).
 5/23 Unreped ammo from USS MASAMA (AE-9)-Fired NGFS.
 5/24 Fired NGFS.
 5/25 Unreped fuel from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1)-Fired NGFS.
 5/26 Fired NGFS.
 5/27 Fired NGFS.
 5/28 Unreped fuel from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1)-Departed Republic of Vietnam
 enroute Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
 5/31 Arrived Kaohsiung.
 6/2 Underway from Kaohsiung enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.
 6/5 Arrived Yokosuka.
 6/17 Departed Yokosuka enroute to Long Beach Calif. MASON'S new homeport.
 6/22 Refueled at Midway Island.
 6/25-6/27 Stopover in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii-RADM PERSONS, COMNAWSEAFRON,
 CTF 130 visited the ship.
 7/2 Arrived Long Beach Harbor, Long Beach, Calif.
 8/1 Underway for Seattle, Washington.
 8/4 Arrived Seattle as a part of TU 10.4 to participate in the Seafair
 festivities-Kitchen FTG3 was crowned King of Seafair.
 8/9 Departed Seattle enroute Long Beach.
 8/11 Arrived Long Beach.
 8/22-8/26 Underway for ASW exercises in Social Op areas.

Enclosure (1)

2. Command Organization.

a. Commanding Officer: CDR Alan M. HAZEN was born (b) (6) at (b) (6). He attended C. E. Byrd High School, Shreveport, Louisiana and Tulane University. CDR HAZEN was commissioned an Ensign on 20 October 1945 and has remained on continuous active duty. Prior to assuming command of the USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852) on 19 August 1965, CDR HAZEN was attached to the Defense Language Institute, Washington, D.C. CDR HAZEN is married to the former Miss (b) (6) of Gwynn's Island, Virginia. They have four children and are presently residing (b) (6). CDR HAZEN has earned the following service medals:

American Campaign	Navy Occupation
World War II	National Defense
China Service	Armed Forces Expeditionary
Joint Service Commendation	Navy Commendation with Combat V
Viet-Nam Service	United Nations Service
Asiatic-Pacific	Korean Service

While serving in the following ships:

USS LCFF-399
USS ALCOR (AD 34)
USS MATHEWS (AKA 96)
USS CHILTON (APA 38)
USS SPOKANE (CLAA 120)
USS MISSISSIPPI (EAG 128)
USS RUSSELL COUNTY (LST 1090)
USS TWINING (DD 540)
USS BOSTON (CAG 1)
USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852)

b. Commanding Officers and dates of command:

Commander D. A. MERRIL	June 1946 to June 1947
Commander G. S. BULLEN	June 1947 to December 1949
Commander J. B. FERRITER	December 1949 to October 1951
Commander W. J. CASPARI	October 1951 to December 1953
Commander D. C. DEANE	December 1953 to August 1954
Commander J. H. RAYBURN	August 1954 to May 1956
Commander J. S. WETTER	May 1956 to January 1958
Commander Lester E. G. SETSER	January 1958 to February 1959
Commander Thomas HAZAPIS	February 1959 to November 1960
Commander B. W. SETSER	November 1960 to October 1961
Commander T. L. BALLIS	October 1961 to October 1961
Commander Louis J. COLLISTER	October 1961 to July 1963

Enclosure (1)

Lieutenant George E. LUDWIG	July 1963 to December 1963 (In commission in reserve)
Commander Ralph E. GRAHAM	December 1963 to August 1965
Commaner Alan M. HAZEN	August 1965 to Present

c. Homeport: U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach, California.

d. Mission: To operate offensively with strike forces, with hunter/killer groups, in support of amphibious assault operations, and screen support forces and convoys against submarine, air and surface threats.

e. Composition of Command: DD 710 (FRAM MK1) Class Destroyer.
Complement: Officers, 18; Enlisted, 270.

Enclosure (1)

3. Operations and Activities.

a. Text. USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852), commanded by CDR A. M. HAZEN USN, of Shreveport, Louisiana was named in honor of a Private First Class of the United States Marine Corps who gallantly gave his life while in action on the island of Guam during World War II, and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery. Built by the Bethlehem Steel Company at Quincy, Massachusetts, her keel was laid 6 August 1945 and she was launched on 15 December 1945. She was commissioned at the Boston Naval Shipyard on 28 June 1946.

During the year 1966 MASON acted out another chapter in her illustrious career. MASON began the year homeported in Yokosuka, Japan as a unit of the U.S. SEVENTH FLEET. On the 20th of June MASON changed operational control to the U.S. FIRST FLEET changing her homeport to Long Beach, California and concluding a two year tour of duty in the Western Pacific. 1966 saw MASON provide more than 5,000 rounds of five inch ammunition in naval gunfire support, make the GEMINI 8 recovery, and visit the ports of Hong Kong, B.C.C.; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Midway Island; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Seattle, Washington; Alcapulco, Mexico as well as Yokosuka and Long Beach.

New Year's Day 1966 found MASON in her homeport concluding an interim availability at Yokosuka's Ship Repair Facility. Sea trials were held on the 4th with satisfactory results and thus attest to the quality of the work done by Ship Repair Facility and ship's force in the short time allotted for the availability.

Almost immediately MASON was underway, departing Yokosuka on the 10th enroute to the Republic of Vietnam. Anchoring in Da-Nang Harbor on 15 January MASON assumed Harbor Defense Unit Da-Nang and commenced a period of naval gunfire support which lasted through 4 March. The five inch main battery was in use daily, firing as many as 5 missions and 371 rounds in one day. It was necessary to operate much of the time at Condition II considering the long hours spent at General Quarters. This, coupled with the almost daily necessity to replenish underway provided a stiff test for the crew and ship; both responded in an exemplary fashion. During this period MASON was a part of operations, "Masher" from 26 January to 5 February and "Double Eagle" from 5 February to 16 February.¹ Naval gunfire support was provided in the II Corps area from 17 February to 4 March. 3,603 rounds of 5 inch ammunition were expended on missions ranging from harassment to the annihilation of a Viet Cong Battalion and mortar position. During this period MASON was underway continuously for 59 days establishing a record for destroyers of the U.S. SEVENTH FLEET.

On 4 March MASON was relieved on NGFS station and departed enroute Yokosuka arriving there on 9 March. MASON was again underway on 14 March enroute to the GEMINI 8 recovery area. This was to become the most spectacular event during MASON's two year tour in WESTPAC. Her recovery of the GEMINI 8 capsule and Astronauts Major David Scott, U.S. Air Force and ex-Naval Officer

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Neil Armstrong will long be remembered by the crew. GEMINI 8, which was the first capsule to make an emergency landing and the first to come down in Western Pacific waters, was picked up shortly after landing by MASON with the help of Pararescue men from 33rd AARS, Naha, Okinawa. The ship, on station in the secondary planned landing area, had been a unit of recovery force in two previous GEMINI space shots.

When MASON received the message that the capsule would make an emergency landing in an area known as 7/3, a landing area designator for the seventh orbit, she was over 180 miles away. A situation calling for top speed, MASON commenced preparations for putting 2 more boilers on the line. This was the first time in many months that the ship had made a power run. During her last sea trial she had steamed flank speed for an hour. On March 17, 1966 MASON ran faster and harder than she had ever run before. Normally, it takes between 2 and 3 hours to fire up a cold boiler and "put it on the line" (engage it into the propulsion system). One hour and thirty-two minutes after the call came out, the MASON slowed from 27 to 22 knots to allow the two extra boilers to be put into service. It was a record for the engine room. The temperature in the engine room began climbing from its normal 95 to 115 degrees as the ship accelerated up to over 32 knots.

About 100 miles away, and bobbing in three foot waves, the prime subjects, Astronauts Armstrong and Scott were fighting seasickness. "It's a great capsule", Captain Wally Schirra said later, "but a lousy boat". For the time being they were safe -- overhead an Air Force C-54 was flying, and paramedics were already making their own splashdowns.

Until the MASON was 100 miles away, there was still some doubt as to whether or not she would be picking up the capsule. Then, the final word was received, and Commander HAZEN, Commanding Officer, informed the crew.

After cruising at speeds near 7 miles a second, the 32 knot speed of the MASON must have seemed slow to the Astronauts, but the grey break in the horizon became a ship, and the ship became a destroyer and the destroyer soon became a grey wall towering over them. At 3:24 P.M. the MASON made its rendezvous with the GEMINI 8 capsule and Astronauts Neil Armstrong and David Scott.

"Boy are we glad to see you" shouted one astronaut, as the ship maneuvered into position to take them aboard.

Four minutes later, David Scott and Neil Armstrong, both wearing sunglasses werelifted aboard the destroyer. The capsule followed in another seven minutes and the three MASON swimmers, recovered the elusive R & R package.

Once aboard the Astronauts were given a medical examination and then went to sleep.

Steaming back to Okinawa, the Astronauts toured the ship. (Neither had been aboard a destroyer before). They were presented numerous souvenirs

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and also gave many in the form of autographs.

A routine administrative message was dispatched to Personnel Accounting Machine Installation. It read "EMBARKED TWO ASTRONAUTS FROM OUTER SPACE".

The next day, the ship berthed at Okinawa where Astronaut Walter Schirra met the GEMINI 8 Astronauts as soon as the gang plank was lowered. The Astronauts thanked the ship's crew, and left for Houston by plane.

MASON received a warm welcome as she arrived in Yokosuka on 20 March ending the recovery mission in fact, although not in memory.² This marked the beginning of a welcome inport period. Except for three days of ASW exercises including submarine services rare in WESTPAC, this period lasted to 15 April. At this time MASON was again underway enroute Hong Kong, assuming station ship duties for a 20 day visit.

MASON's visit to Hong Kong was concurrent with that of the Honorable Daniel Evans, Governor of the state of Washington. Governor Evans served as Navigator and Operations Officer on the USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD 852) during the Korean War. He revisited his old ship and later was kind enough to entertain the wardroom.

MASON had a memorable stay in Hong Kong and performed her duties as SOPA ADMIN in fine fashion.³ On 9 May MASON was underway enroute to the Republic of Vietnam. Arriving on 11 May MASON commenced 2 weeks of naval gunfire support in the II Corps area. This period wrapped up 11 months of naval gunfire support activity for MASON. Commencing July 1965 MASON was among the first Destroyers to fire her guns in anger on foreign soil since Korea. Since that time MASON has fired over 8,000 rounds of five inch ammunition plus hundreds of rounds of 50 caliber and small arms ammunition on a total of 80 missions during which 450 targets were taken under fire in support of U.S. Marines, U.S. Army, Australian Units, South Vietnamese Army, Junk Force Units and Support Activities Danang, Vietnam.

MASON's fire accounted for 166 Viet Cong confirmed killed in action and 332 estimated additional Viet Cong killed in action, and destroyed three enemy mortars, three 50-caliber AA guns, three 30-caliber AA guns, 1 recoilless rifle, 245 Viet Cong structures, 3 reinforced Viet Cong bunkers, many trenches and prepared positions, 15-20 Viet Cong sampans and small boats, and 42 Viet Cong pack animals. 267 Viet Cong structures were also damaged, 75 Viet Cong structures were left burning and 4 secondary explosions were caused by MASON fire.

In the past eleven months of operations the total number of rounds fired by MASON in combat is four times as many as fired by her in combat in the previous 20 years of commissioned service. MASON's motto "We aim to Please" has proven appropriate as will be attested by the many U.S. and other friendly forces for whom she provided fire.

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Departing Vietnam on 28 May MASON returned to Yokosuka via Kaohsiung, Taiwan. This was the ship's last period in Yokosuka. On 17 June MASON and other ships of DESRON THREE broke homeward bound pennants and got underway enroute to the squadron's new homeport, Long Beach, California. In crossing MASON refueled at Midway Island on 22 June and spent 25 - 27 June at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. While at Pearl Harbor RADM Persons, COMHAWSEAFRON, visited the ship. As CTF 130 he had had operational control of MASON for the GEMINI 8 recovery mission.

On 2 July MASON arrived in Long Beach and was welcomed home by a brass band, friends, and relatives. This was the first time home in better than 2 years for many of the ship's company. A well deserved period of leave, rest and relaxation commenced upon arrival.

MASON spent the month of July inport getting underway on 1 August bound for Seattle, Washington and the Seafair festivities. MASON took an especially active part in this celebration. Fire Controlman Kitchen was crowned King of Seafair. The ship was open for guided tours and the honor guard was paraded for the citizens of Seattle. If Seafair can be considered representative it can be said that Seattle is a "Navy Town" in the best sense of the expression. All hands were impressed by the warm hospitality of the Seattle populace.

Returning to Long Beach on 11 August the ship commenced two months of weekly underway periods in which MASON acted as submarine target vessel and ASW school ship. Also included were a period as plane guard for the USS YORKTOWN (CVS-10) and several gunnery exercises.

MASON spent the Thanksgiving holidays in Alcapulco, Mexico along with other ships of Destroyer Division 31. The men of DESDIV 31 were entertained at a party given by Bob Hope. Actress Merle Oberon and her two children were guests for a meal in the MASON wardroom. MASON Officers returned her visit by attending one of her parties. Gina Lolabrigida was guest of honor. Returning to Long Beach on 30 November the Christmas and New Year holiday season was spent inport. For many of the ship's company this was the first Christmas spent in the United States since 1963 and a fitting end for an exciting chapter in MASON's history.

b. Footnotes

¹ See 6C.

Commander Task Group 76.6 Message 031352Z 01 APRIL 1966

² See 6C

Neil A. Armstrong, David R. Scott letter of 26 April 1966

Secretary of the Navy message 292217Z 31 MARCH 1966

Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet message 1801149Z 18 MARCH 1966

Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet Message 170776Z 18 MARCH 1966

Enclosure (1)

USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852)

USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852) was named in honor of a Marine private who gallantly gave his life while in action on the Island of Guam and was awarded, posthumously, the Congressional Medal of Honor. Built by Bethlehem Steel Company, the ship had her shakedown cruise in the Caribbean while enroute to join the Pacific Fleet early in 1947. MASON participated in the Seige of Wonsan in May 1951. In June she joined the British Carrier Force performing blockade duties. MASON received the Korean Service Medal with seven stars, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and United Nations Service Medal for her service in Korea. During the Middle East Crisis of 1956 MASON comprised an element of Fast Carrier Task Force ELEVEN.

MASON was homeported in Yokosuka, Japan for two years commencing in May 1960 and saw varied assignments during this period. From February 1963 to January 1964 MASON underwent FRAM MK I conversion at Boston Naval Shipyard and received increased radar and communications facilities, rehabilitated living spaces, and modern anti-submarine weapons, including ASROC and DASH. In June 1964 MASON was again homeported in Yokosuka for a renewed period of operations in the Western Pacific. From August 1965 through June 1966 MASON participated in eight combat Support Missions in South Vietnam.

On March 17, 1965 MASON successfully recovered the Gemini 8 Capsule and Astronauts MAJ David SCOTT, USAF, and ex-Naval Officer Niel ARMSTRONG from an emergency landing in the Western Pacific. In September 1967 MASON deployed for a seven month cruise in the Western Pacific, operating in support of Allied Combat Operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

After returning home in March 1968, the ship spent the summer in upkeep and training, then shifted homeport to Yokosuka, Japan in August 1968. During the two year tour in the Seventh Fleet, MASON'S duties included search and rescue, gunfire support, pilot rescue destroyer, standby recovery ship for APOLLO 9, and picket station in the Sea of Japan.

In August of 1970 MASON shifted her homeport to San Diego. The ship completed a Fleet-In-Depth-Overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard from January to June 1971. On 1 April MASON became a unit of Destroyer Squadron SEVENTEEN. The ship deployed to the Western Pacific in October 71 and operated at Yankee Station, SAR Station in the Tonkin Gulf, and on the "gunline" off the coast of South Vietnam. MASON began her journey back to San Diego 7 March 1972, arriving in San Diego on 24 March 1972.

On October 24, 1972 the MASON deployed to the Western Pacific. After having participated in a combined NAVAL EXERCISE (LONGEX-72) in New Zealand with the New Zealand, Australian, Canadian, and U. S. Naval Forces, the MASON operated in SAR stations in the Tonkin Gulf; conducted linebacker strike missions off the coast of North Vietnam, completed "gunline" tours off the coast of South Vietnam, participated in "OPERATIONS ENDSWEEP" and a combined naval ASW exercise in the sea of Japan with Japanese, Korean and U. S. Naval Forces. On April 17, 1973 the MASON departed Yokosuka, Japan to sail back to San Diego, arriving on May 2, 1973.

After returning to San Diego the MASON underwent an intensive Readiness Improvement period of ninety days and a navy-distillate fuel conversion. The MASON then participated in a joint naval exercise involving Canadian, New Zealand, Australian and U. S. Naval Forces.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (b) (6) was raised in Ferguson, Missouri. While serving on board the aircraft carrier USS BOXER, LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (b) (6) competed for and successfully obtained a Secretary of the Navy Appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy; graduating from Annapolis in 1958.

His first tour of duty as an officer was aboard the USS LLOYD THOMAS (DDE-764) where he served as Weapons Officer. Following graduation from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, he was assigned to the faculty of the U. S. Naval Academy for two academic years.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (b) (6) subsequently served on the USS LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD-729) as Operations Officer, at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D. C. as Head of the Officer Procurement Plans section, and on board the USS ALBERT DAVID (DE-1050) as Executive Officer. Prior to reporting to the USS LEONARD F. MASON (DD-852), he was Commanding Officer of the USS ARNOLD J. ISBEL (DD-869).

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (b) (6) is married to the former (b) (6) of Bergenfield, New Jersey. They have two daughters; (b) (6) and (b) (6).

Enclosure (7)

COMMANDER WILLIAM D. HOHMANN

A native of Chicago, Illinois, COMMANDER HOHMANN graduated in 1958 from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in Sociology. Commissioned an Ensign on graduation, he was first assigned to USS HELENA (CA-75) where he served for two years in the Gunnery Department.

Leaving USS HELENA in June 1960, he served as Gunnery Officer on USS TAUSSIG (DD-746). Following this, LIEUTENANT HOHMANN was assigned as Surface Tactical Instructor, Tactical Training Group, Fleet ASW School, San Diego.

In March 1965, LIEUTENANT HOHMANN returned to sea duty as Operations Officer on the Staff of COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON TWENTY-SIX, later assuming additional duty as Chief Staff Officer. During this tour, he served a four month period of temporary duty as Operations Officer on the Staff of COMMANDER MATCHMAKER SQUADRON III, the forerunner of NATO STANDING NAVAL FORCE, ATLANTIC.

In December 1967, COMMANDER HOHMANN reported for duty in the NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE, ORGANIZATION of the JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

From August 1970 to March 1972, he served as Executive Officer, USS SHIELDS (DD-596). COMMANDER HOHMANN comes to USS LEONARD F. MASON from U. S. MILITARY COMMAND, VIETNAM, where he served consecutively as a Plans Officer in the OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE and as Assistant Secretary Joint Staff.

COMMANDER HOHMANN is married to the former (b) (6) of Portsmouth, Virginia. They reside with their children (b) (6) (b) (6) California.